

WILMINGTON, N. C., JULY 27, 1866.

The District Convention.

We were gratified at the very general attendance at the District Convention held in Goldsboro' on Wednesday last. With the exception of Pitt, Jones and Onslow, all the counties were represented. The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed. We witnessed gentlemen, belonging to all the parties which have for many years past divided the people of our State, sitting together in a political meeting, for the first time in their lives, moved by a common sentiment of a hearty and honest desire to restore the Federal Union to its former prosperity upon honorable and Constitutional grounds, and united in a unanimous approval of the Federal Administration.

With little or no important diversity of opinion, the proceedings of the Convention were not characterized by the discussions usually attendant upon such assemblages. The selection of delegates was made at the unanimous suggestion of a committee representing each county, and received the approval of the Convention without division upon a *pro rata* vote.

It is useless for us to add our approval of the delegates chosen. Judge Manly and Mr. Wright are known throughout the State as gentlemen of eminence, ability, mature judgment and wise and discreet friends of North Carolina and of the Union. They have neither held political positions of importance, but are distinguished as members of the bar of this State. We are confident that the people of the District will, with great unanimity, endorse the action of their delegates in these appointments. The Convention manifested their earnest desire to secure the services of these gentlemen at Philadelphia by almost a unanimous refusal to appoint alternate delegates, upon the ground that such action might furnish a possible excuse for the non-acceptance of one or both of the gentlemen already elected. So that now, should either or both of the delegates refuse to accept their appointment, the District would be only partially represented or entirely unrepresented, as no authority is vested in any one to fill a vacancy, and the time is entirely too short for the meeting of another Convention, if it was not otherwise impracticable.

The Hon. George Howard, of Edgecombe, was named as the choice of the Convention for one of the delegates for the State at large, to be selected by the district delegates on the 10th of August next, at Raleigh, to which meeting our delegates were requested to attend. We know, from the high estimation in which Judge Howard is held by the two delegates selected from this district, that it would hardly require a request on the part of the Convention to have secured for him their hearty support.

The gubernatorial canvass.—Gen. Ransom.

We publish elsewhere the letter of Gen. M. W. Ransom declining to be a candidate for Governor. The letter in its tone and sentiments is characteristic of its distinguished author. But few men in the State, either as a citizen or soldier, has such a strong hold on the affections of the people of North Carolina as General Ransom. Even the papers, which have approvingly published the extraordinary speech of the Hon. Thomas Settle, denouncing those who adhered to the Confederate cause after he abandoned it, as murderers, had no word of bitterness, or even of ill favor, to utter against him or his claims to the high office for which his friends were urging him, during the time his name has been before the public in the attitude of a probable candidate.

Gen. Ransom's entire connection with the Southern movement, from the time he served this State as a Commissioner, in connection with the Hon. D. L. Swann and Colonel John L. Brinkley, to the Provisional Government of the Confederate States, at Montgomery, Ala., until he surrendered his gallant brigade at Appomattox Court House, is one that reflects credit alike upon himself and his native State. He is equally remarkable as a civilian. An able lawyer, and a finished scholar, he is particularly distinguished as one of the most brilliant orators in the State.

The people of North Carolina fully appreciate the good judgment and patriotic feelings which influence him at this time in declining the use of his name as a candidate for Governor. They will agree with him as to the impropriety of dividing our people by a heated political canvass, and the injury that might be caused thereby. The call which has been made upon General Ransom has been of the most flattering character, and the unselfishness and candor which marks his declination, gives the very best evidence of his fitness to fill acceptably and honorably the position to which he has been so highly recommended.

The Crops.

During our recent visit to Goldsboro', we met gentlemen from various portions of this Congressional District, and had with many of them conversations in reference to the condition and prospects of the crops. Our Edgecombe, Wilson and Craven friends gave the most encouraging account of the prospect for a good crop. In these counties, the seasons seem to have been more propitious, especially for the culture of cotton, and we heard rather less complaint in reference to the freedmen. In Edgecombe, so far as we could learn, the prospect throughout the whole county was better than in the others, though our Craven friends were not disposed to regard their second to any. In Greene, we learn, that there had been too much rain for cotton, causing the seed to grow so rapidly that it had not branched sufficiently. In that county, however, especially in the uplands, the corn was very fine. In Lenoir the crops were promising, and the rains of the last few days being much needed, were most timely, and will do much to forward the crops. We heard more complaint from Carteret than from any other quarter, especially on and near the Sound, where they had suffered exceedingly from the drought. The gentlemen from that section spoke gloomily of their corn prospects.

There seemed to be much diversity of opinion in Wayne, many contending that from the long continuance of the dry and hot weather, that the crops could not now be benefited by a change, while others thought the recent rains would bring them up to a good standard. Our own limited observation went to confirm the opinions of the latter. While the cotton was small, the stand was quite good, and the weed looked green and healthy. From Duplin we did not receive as encouraging accounts as we had hoped. We heard of more complaints in reference to the want of industry on the part of freedmen, than from other portions of the district.

We sincerely trust that the rains which we have been blessed with in the last few days will do much to restore the crops in this county. The corn especially has suffered greatly from drought, and while the rains may be too late to benefit the early crops, we think they must have been very opportune for the later ones.

The Convention and Judge Underwood.

The testimony submitted before the Reconstruction Committee has been published in a large volume by order of Congress, and he who has the patience and courage to wade through it will make many singular and interesting discoveries.

The Philadelphia Age gives the following extract from the testimony of John C. Underwood, who has become notorious as the Judge who packed one jury in order to find a true bill against ex-President Davis, and on oath acknowledges his ability, though it be a difficult matter, to pack another in order to convict him:

Q. Could either Jefferson Davis or Robert E. Lee be convicted of treason in Virginia?

A. Oh, no! unless you had a packed jury.

Q. Could you manage to pack a jury there?

A. I think it would be very difficult, but it could be done. I could pack a jury to convict him.

When we consider that one of the illustrious gentlemen named has already had a bill of indictment for treason found against him before this Judge, and in a few months must appear before him for his life under this finding, the disclosures here made will appal the Christian world. Judge Underwood was so frequently disgraced the judicial crime, and lent himself a willing tool to do the dirty work of unscrupulous partisans, that we are not surprised if he is willing to add to his black record the terrible crime which he unhesitatingly deposes as to his ability to perform. Nor are we surprised that a party, that has so frequently and so publicly steeped itself in iniquity, in order to continue its lease upon power, would conceive the purpose of trying ex-President Davis by a packed jury, and we appreciate the indifference to infamy, which these men exhibit in thus publishing their murderous idea to the world in an official document. Men who could harbor such an outrage are callous to the natural promptings of less hardened criminals who attempt to hide their infamy from the public.

Their selection of Underwood as the willing tool of their diabolical plan was happily conceived, and we have no doubt he will make good his iniquitous boast. The man who would sell himself for pelf, and not only prove recreant to his section, but wilfully abuse and slander his people and State for the applause of the Radicals and the success of their political schemes, would profane the temples of justice and prostitute his high judicial position at their behests.

We have long felt that it was time that the Government should end this judicial farce and put a stop to this serious mockery of the forms of a trial. The terrible disclosures made by Dr. Craven of the refined cruelties practiced towards the distinguished State prisoner has made a deep impression upon the public mind, but after the revelation made in the official document of Congress, in relation to the purposes of the Radicals, and the eager pliancy of their man, if Jefferson Davis is condemned to be hanged—if he be convicted by a jury packed by Underwood—the world will not hold the Government of the United States guiltless of the murder.

A Prophecy.

Daniel Webster, in a public speech delivered at Faneuil Hall, on the 7th of March 1850, made use of the following words:

If the infernal fanaticism and abolitionism ever get power in their hands, they will override the Constitution, set the Supreme Court at defiance, make laws to suit themselves, lay violent hands on those who differ with them in their opinions, or dare question their infallibility and finally bankrupt the country, and deluge it in blood.

A statesman never displayed more political sagacity than is here exhibited, nor was a prophecy ever more truly verified. The Constitution has not only been overridden by the Radicals, but it would hardly be recognized by its authors as the great chart they left by which to steer the ship of State. Not only has the Supreme Court been set at defiance, but the requirements of law and decency have been set aside; laws have been made without regard to the Constitution or the welfare of the country, but to suit the purposes of a corrupt party, and which are a disgrace to the Government; violent hands have been laid on those who differ with them, and have and still are subjecting them to long and illegal imprisonment; and were it not for the interposition of the President, throughout the South, bloody executioners would satiate the appetite of "infernal fanatics" with the lives of the best of our people; the country is bankrupt, and an impoverished people, without a voice in the Government, are ground down by the frequent and enormous demands of the tax-gatherer; they have not only deluged the country in blood, but before old wounds are healed, they threaten to inaugurate a more direful struggle still.

Never, in the history of a Government, has a political party written such a black record. Its entire legislation is characterized by such want of constitutionality and a hostility to the best interests of the Government, that the veto of the President has been evoked to a most unusual degree. Personal honor has not only been prostituted to party purposes, but by the disfranchisement of the better portion of the people of Tennessee, a great State has sold its manhood and sacrificed its honor upon the altar of political degradation, which our law-makers have erected in the country's Capitol.

The tendency of all this has but one solution.—Unless the patriotic men who will assemble in Philadelphia in August next can do something to save the Republic, its ultimate destiny, in the hands of the party which now misgoverns it, is as certain as it is dark.

The Late Convention.—Col. Allen's Letter.

In publishing the letter of Col. Wm. A. Allen, of Duplin, in our issue of the 25th inst., we made a few editorial remarks in relation thereto. Preparing to leave our post for a day or so, we were able to give his letter only a very hasty perusal.—We are now convinced that we did its author injustice in saying that he occupied similar grounds to that assumed by the Committee on Banks and Banking in the last Legislature. Col. Allen does not hold that the local, or municipal law of a conquered country, as contra-distinguished from its Constitution, is discontinued, as was attempted to be shown in that report, but that it continues in force after the conquest and until the new government that may be established, repeals the same. But that the Constitution of a country, being a part of the Government, cannot continue after the destruction of the Government.

This distinction will be readily seen, and we owe it to Col. Allen to make the explanation. We will refer to this matter again in a day or two.

Convention of the Third Congressional District.

At a Convention of the delegates from the different counties of the Third Congressional District convened at Lumberton, on the 25th of July, the following proceedings were had:

On motion of Mr. Boyd, of Montgomery, Thos. A. Norman, Esq. was called to the chair. Messrs. Archibald Niven, of Anson, and Dan. L. Russell, Jr., of Brunswick, were appointed Secretaries. Mr. Russell stated that he was not properly authorized to act as a delegate, having no authority from the people of his county; but, upon motion of Mr. Morrissey, all citizens of the District in attendance were invited to take seats as delegates.

Upon a call of the Convention it was found that the following counties were represented: Anson, Montgomery, Richmond, Robeson and Brunswick.

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THE GERMAN WAR.

Our Special European Correspondence.

PARIS, 6th July, 1866.

To the Editors of the Journal: